

nor Florida has been able to prove any real or substantial harm resulting from the Army Corps of Engineers' or Georgia's water management practices. As a matter of fact, they are under court direction today.

The numbers show this. Since 1980, the population of the Metro Atlanta water district has more than doubled from just over 2 million to over 5 million, and that is as a percentage of about 10.5 million people in the State as a whole in 2014. Since 2000 alone, the population of this metro area has grown by more than 1 million.

Since the formation of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District in 2001, water withdrawals in Metro Atlanta have decreased dramatically even as the population grew by more than 1 million. As a matter of fact, the consumption per capita has gone down by more than one-third.

This is good water management. Georgia has been a good steward of water resources, and this has been repeatedly validated. In fact, Metro Atlanta water systems have gone above and beyond the necessary water management practices to ensure that they are conserving as much as possible and efficiently properly using the water they do withdraw.

Again, the numbers back this up. There are 15 counties in the metro district. As I said before, from 2000 to 2013, water withdrawals have declined by more than one-third. Both Alabama and Florida have consistently lost in court because their claims have been found to be baseless. Because they cannot win in court, now we see the senior Senator from Alabama trying to win through the appropriations process in Congress.

There is a case on this issue currently being litigated between the States in the U.S. Supreme Court that is due to be heard by a court-appointed special master in November of this year. There is another case pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and yet another one is pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. We need to allow the legal process to run its natural course on these cases.

But, again, some in this body are short-circuiting that litigation through the appropriations process. That is just not appropriate. This short-circuiting would have improper influence on the outcomes of these court cases. That speaks volumes.

We are not sent here to pick winners and losers among the States. This is a matter for the States involved to litigate and negotiate, as are all interstate disputes. By the way, this could set a dangerous precedent not just for these three States but for all States that have water rights issues.

This is a matter for the States involved to litigate and negotiate, as are all interstate disputes. This is not a matter to be dealt with through the appropriations process of the Federal Government.

Attempts at this kind of Washington meddling are exactly why many of our constituents have lost trust in this body. We must remove this language from the CJS bill or we will set a dangerous precedent moving forward.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 120, H.R. 2578, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

#### COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2578) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

*That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:*

#### TITLE I

##### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

##### OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

*For necessary expenses for international trade activities of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, and for engaging in trade promotional activities abroad, including expenses of*

*grants and cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting exports of United States firms, without regard to sections 3702 and 3703 of title 44, United States Code; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas and employees temporarily posted overseas; travel and transportation of employees of the International Trade Administration between two points abroad, without regard to section 40118 of title 49, United States Code; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services; rental of space abroad for periods not exceeding 10 years, and expenses of alteration, repair, or improvement; purchase or construction of temporary demountable exhibition structures for use abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed \$294,300 for official representation expenses abroad; purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use abroad, not to exceed \$45,000 per vehicle; obtaining insurance on official motor vehicles; and rental of tie lines, \$473,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, of which \$10,000,000 is to be derived from fees to be retained and used by the International Trade Administration, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: Provided, That, of amounts provided under this heading, not less than \$16,400,000 shall be for China antidumping and countervailing duty enforcement and compliance activities: Provided further, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities; and that for the purpose of this Act, contributions under the provisions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 shall include payment for assessments for services provided as part of these activities.*

##### OFFICE OF UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

*For necessary expenses of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and the employment of experts and consultants as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$54,250,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended: Provided, That section 141(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2171(a)) is amended by striking "Executive Office of the President" and inserting "Department of Commerce": Provided further, That not to exceed \$124,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.*

##### BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

*For necessary expenses for export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce, including costs associated with the performance of export administration field activities both domestically and abroad; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed \$13,500 for official representation expenses abroad; awards of compensation to informers under the Export Administration Act of 1979, and as authorized by section 1(b) of the Act of June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 223; 22 U.S.C. 401(b)); and purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use and motor vehicles for law enforcement use with special requirement vehicles eligible for purchase without regard to any price limitation otherwise established by law, \$106,500,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That*